

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 AGRE-00 /080 W
-----037085 181554Z /47

R 180424Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6277
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS TOKYO 04401

USEEC ALSO FOR AMEMBASSY

USMTN ALSO FOR USMISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EC, JA
SUBJECT: EC-JAPAN TRADE DISCUSSIONS

1. PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE JAPANESE AND
EC POSITIONS REMAIN FAR APART IN THEIR BILATERAL TRADE
DISCUSSIONS. THE EC, LED BY SIR ROY DENMAN, HAS CON-
TINUED TO PRESS JAPANESE TO PURCHASE A-300 AIRBUSES;
LIBERALIZE TARIFFS AND IMPORT BARRIERS FOR PHARMACEUTI-
CALS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, AND CONFECTIONARIES; INCREASE
IMPORTS OF EUROPEAN TOBACCO PRODUCTS; AND RAISE QUOTAS
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FOR LUNCHEON MEATS. SO FAR, THE PRESS REPORTS, THE
JAPANESE HAVE AGREED ONLY TO LOWER TARIFFS ON BISCUITS,
CHOCOLATES, AND CHEWING GUM AND TO COMPLY WITH AN EC
REQUEST TO CONTINUE THE SPECIAL ANNUAL QUOTA ARRANGEMENT
PERMITTING THE IMPORT OF 5,200 TONS OF LUNCHEON MEAT
INTO OKINAWA. THE JAPANESE SPECIFICALLY REJECTED DEMANDS
TO LOWER TARIFFS ON DAIRY PRODUCTS AND WOULD NOT COMMIT

ITSELF TO PURCHASE OF THE AIRBUS, SAYING THAT ITS PURCHASE WAS COMPLETELY UP TO THE COMMERCIAL AIRLINES.

2. PRESS REPORTS ALSO STATED THAT WILHELM HAFERKAMP, EC VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WILL ARRIVE IN TOKYO THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 18) TO BEGIN TALKS WITH GOJ CABINET OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, AND TO SIGN A JOINT EC-JAPAN STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THE STRAUSS-USHIBA STATEMENT OF JANUARY 13. PRESS NOTES THAT STATEMENT IS EXPECTED TO REITERATE JAPAN'S INTENTIONS TO TRY TO ATTAIN ITS 7 PERCENT ECONOMIC GROWTH TARGET, CUT ITS CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS TO ABOUT 6 BILLION DOLLARS, PLEDGE TO EXPAND IMPORT QUOTAS OR LOWER TARIFFS FOR EUROPEAN FARM PRODUCE, AND AGREE TO COOPERATE CLOSER WITH THE EC IN THE MTN. MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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